

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Reconsideration in view the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 3 and 13 are amended to overcome 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejections.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 1-18 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully that amended claims 1, 3 and 13 overcome these rejections and place claims 1-18 in condition for allowance.

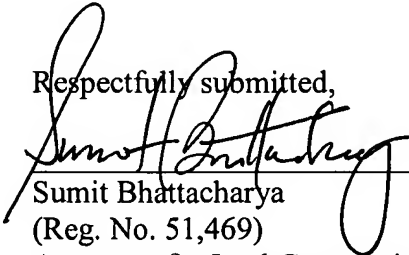
For at least all the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7500 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Dated: December 28, 2004

By:

Respectfully submitted,


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